

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On July 27, 2010, the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee (KCRCC) voted to contribute \$2,500 toward the election contest lawsuit involving the Coeur d'Alene City Council race between Jim Brannon and Mike Kennedy. This motion was passed after three months of debate. Some among the committee feared that the voting public would view the Republicans as whiners and sore losers and believed that the funds would be better spent on current races rather than a past one. The majority, however, felt that only honest and legal elections are the very foundation of our Republic, and it is of utmost importance that the people of Kootenai County can cast their votes with complete certainty that it will be counted fully and according to the law.

The race between Brannon and Kennedy was decided by a mere five votes in Kennedy's favor. However, independent audits have shown legal discrepancies with regard to as many as 877 absentee ballots. These discrepancies include signatures that do not seem to match the name on the ballot, more than one ballot in a single absentee envelope, improperly stamped ballots, etc. Further, it has been discovered that several votes were cast by people who do not reside in the city of Coeur d'Alene, and thereby are not legally allowed to vote in city elections. The KCRCC acknowledges that, even if the votes were counted properly under the law, Kennedy may well have won the election anyway, possibly by an even greater margin than the official count indicated. Even so, we believe that there is enough evidence of negligence with regard to the count that the integrity of the entire election process could (and should) be called into question and given a thorough and public investigation. Of course, it would be disingenuous to imply that the KCRCC would not prefer that Brannon were the victor. But Republicans have lost tight races before, and we have never gotten involved in a lawsuit over such a loss, financially or otherwise. The only concern here is the integrity of the voting process when so many Americans feel their vote does not matter.

A lot of time, effort, and money go into any race for public office, regardless of political affiliation. Strategies are carefully devised and implemented. Numbers of volunteers make phone calls and distribute literature. Ordinary citizens give many thousands of dollars to their preferred candidates for television, radio, and print advertising to ensure their freedoms are retained and their voice are represented. Entire organizations are formed and endure countless meetings in an effort to get their candidates elected. However, if the voting process is at best inept, or at worst corrupt, then all is for naught. It doesn't matter how much time, effort, and money was invested. It doesn't matter whom you voted for. We might as well do nothing, sit back, and wait to see whom the powers that be foist upon

us.

This is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue. The KCRCC has decided to put its money where its principles are. Above all partisan ideologies, we believe in honest elections. We believe in the right of the people to choose who governs them. We believe that every vote should count... and count only once, and only if the voter meets the legal requirements. Without an honest election process, everything else is absolutely irrelevant.

The KCRCC understands that the Democrats put just as much effort as we do in the election process, and we believe that elections should be decided by the merit of the candidates and the will of the voters, not by glitches in the system or negligence by those charged with implementing it.

The KCRCC thereby asks the Kootenai County Democrat Central Committee (KCDCC) to also demand a thorough and public investigation into the election process as administered by the County Clerk's Office.

We, the members of the KCRCC also issue a public challenge to our fellow Americans within the KCDCC to demonstrate and equal commitment to honest elections by matching our donation to ensure our fellow Americans their voting rights, regardless of party affiliation.

The election process itself applied to every political race should be based on an honest voting process without the slightest shadow of impropriety. Americans demand honest elections. Should we do anything less in City, County or State elections?

Respectfully,

The Kootenai County Republican Central Committee

765-8259